

seen Mr. Pycraft's latest work on the group. The figures have been to some extent re-drawn and re-arranged.

84. *Sharpe on a new Bird from Mount Roraima.*

[Report on a Collection made by Messrs. F. V. McConnell and J. J. Queleh at Mount Roraima in British Guiana. (Communicated by Professor E. Ray Lankester, D.C.L., F.R.S., Director of the Natural History Museum.) Trans. Linn. Soc. (Zool.) viii. pp. 51-76, 1900.]

Only one bird, *Zonotrichia macconelli*, sp. nov., is mentioned in this memoir; it is figured along with its near ally *Z. pileata*. It would have been interesting to know what other species were met with by Messrs. McConnell & Queleh upon this remarkable mountain.

XXVI.—Obituary.

MR. C. W. WYATT, DR. G. HARTLAUB, THE BARON M.-E. DE SELYS-LONGCHAMPS, and MR. P. CROWLEY.

CLAUDE WILMOTT WYATT, M.B.O.U., who died on May 1st, 1900, at his residence, Adderbury, Oxon, was the only son of the Rev. Thomas Wyatt, Vicar of Wroxton and Balscott, in the same county. He was born at Worthing, Sussex, on March 2, 1842, and was educated at Eton and Brasenose College, Oxford. While at Eton he met with an accident, and his injuries were so severe that he was on his back for several months, and remained an invalid for three years afterwards. This event had a great effect on his life, for on going to the University he found it impossible to do the necessary reading, and was reluctantly compelled to give up taking a degree. Being unable to do much head-work, he determined to devote himself to the "hobby" of his boyhood, namely, birds. First of all he visited Palestine and Egypt with the Rev. H. T. Gepp as his companion. In 1869 Wyatt joined the Sinai Survey Expedition as Ornithologist, at his own expense, and on his return wrote a good article for this Journal on the birds of the Sinaitic peninsula (see 'Ibis,' 1870, p. 1). In the same connexion, Wyatt also prepared the "Birds" of the Ordnance Survey of Sinai (1873). This

expedition further encouraged Wyatt's taste for travel, and for the next ten years he was generally abroad, visiting Africa, North and South America, India, and other parts of Asia, always on the look-out for birds. One of the most useful excursions he made during this period was his journey to the U.S. of Colombia in 1870, when he penetrated far into the Eastern Cordillera of the State of Santander, and obtained a good series of specimens, of which an account was published in 'The Ibis' for 1871. In 1882 Wyatt finally settled down at Adderbury, and thenceforth devoted all his time to painting and drawing the birds he loved so well.

Wyatt was a very shy, reserved, and silent man. Few of his casual friends would have known from him of the wild places he had been in, or even that he had been out of England at all, but once on the subject of birds he was always ready to talk. During the last twelve years of his life he again felt the effects of his accident, and was more or less of an invalid, but up to the very last he always spent his mornings in drawing and painting.

His house at Adderbury was filled with cases of beautiful birds all shot and set up by himself. He also left a large and valuable collection of their skins, which his sister, Mrs. Bradford, has presented to the Oxford University Museum.

Wyatt's best known ornithological works are the 'Monograph of the Swallows,' a fully illustrated quarto, in two volumes, which was prepared by him in association with Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, and his 'British Birds,' also in two volumes. In both of these books the drawings, which were made entirely by his own hands, show artistic skill of a very high order.*

IN DR. GUSTAV HARTLAUB the science of Ornithology has lost one of its oldest and most active votaries, who had been engaged in zoological work, mainly relating to Birds, for nearly sixty years.

Hartlaub was born at Bremen on the 8th of November, 1814, being the son of Senator Hartlaub, a well-known merchant

* See *Ibis*, 1894, p. 447, and 1900, p. 561.

of what was then the 'Freie Hanse Stadt.' He was educated first at the schools of his native city and subsequently at the Universities of Bonn, Berlin, and Göttingen, where he studied Medicine and Natural History; he took the degree of M.D. at the last-named University. In Berlin he was associated with Count Keyserling, the elder Blasius, and Lichtenstein, and during a subsequent tour to Austria, France, and England, made friends with many other Naturalists of that period. Returning home, he settled in Bremen as a practising Physician, and passed the whole of his life in that city, only quitting it occasionally for a short summer vacation, which was usually passed in the Alps, or in some other quiet retreat in Germany or Italy.

Hartlaub talked and wrote English perfectly, and had many devoted friends in this country. When resident at Oxford (1846-50), the author of this notice found his master and teacher in Ornithology, the late H. E. Strickland, in close correspondence with Hartlaub. One of the first excursions made by the writer on the Continent at that period included a visit to Bremen, in order to make the personal acquaintance of this active and intelligent correspondent, as he had quickly become.

Hartlaub had an excellent library, but kept no private collection. All his specimens were placed in the Museum of his native city, where he acted as an honorary supervisor of the Zoological collection throughout his life. Our friend and fellow-worker, Dr. Otto Finsch, was appointed Curator of the Bremen Museum in 1864, and was for many years closely associated with Hartlaub in his work.

As early as 1844 Hartlaub published a catalogue of the Natural-History Collections in the Bremen Museum, and in 1846 first undertook the Report on the progress of Ornithology for Wiegmann's 'Archiv,' which he carried on for about 25 years. No one was better acquainted with the whole range of ornithological literature during that period, or could have performed this difficult task more efficiently. In 1847 a very useful piece of work was accomplished by Hartlaub, for which students of American Ornithology will

ever be grateful to him. This was an index to Azara's 'Apuntamientos' on the birds of Paraguay, which was prepared with great care and sagacity. But it was more specially to the Avifauna of the Ethiopian region that Hartlaub turned his attention. His 'System der Ornithologie West-Africa's,' although issued so long ago as 1857, still remains the standard work of reference on this subject, and his two volumes on the Birds of Madagascar (1861 and 1877) were, until recently, the leading authorities on the strange Avifauna of that country.

In 1870 Hartlaub, in conjunction with Dr. Finsch, published an excellent volume on East-African Birds, based primarily on the collection made by the unfortunate traveller Baron v. der Decken during his expedition up the Juba River.

Besides these separate works, Hartlaub published, from 1852 onwards, a multitude of essays on ornithological subjects in various journals in Germany, especially in the 'Abhandlungen der naturwissenschaftlichen Vereins zu Bremen' and in the 'Journal für Ornithologie.'

Hartlaub, who had the reputation among his countrymen of being somewhat of an "Anglo-maniac," also made frequent communications to the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' and 'The Ibis.' Of the Zoological Society he was, at the time of his death, the Senior Foreign Member, having been elected to that honour in 1855. Of the British Ornithologists' Union he was one of the Honorary Members originally selected in 1860, while he was a contributor to the very first volume of this Journal. His name is commemorated in Ornithology by the peculiar genus of Starlings (*Hartlaubius*) called after him by Bonaparte in 1853, and by many species (*Onychognathus hartlaubi*, *Lophoceros hartlaubi*, *Turacus hartlaubi*, *Francolinus hartlaubi*, &c.), the names of which will carry down to posterity the fame of the celebrated Ornithologist of Bremen.

Hartlaub died at his residence in Bremen on the 20th of November last, in the 86th year of his age, having lived to celebrate his Golden Wedding and the Jubilæum of his

Doctorate, and leaving behind him a goodly array of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to lament his loss. One of his sons, Dr. Clemens Hartlaub, C.M.Z.S., has followed his father's lead, and is well known as an active and rising zoologist, now second in command at the Biological Station of Heligoland.

BARON DE SELYS-LONGCHAMPS.—The news of the death of an eminent naturalist must always cause a feeling of melancholy among those who are left behind him, but he whose end it is now our duty to record had especial claims upon our consideration. A distinguished politician, a writer on an unusually wide range of subjects, and a fine specimen of the courteous nobleman, whose high character, sincerity, and unflinching tact were a byword among his fellow-citizens, we may well join with his countrymen in deploring his decease, while offering them our respectful sympathy in the loss which they have sustained.

M. le Baron Michel-Edmond de Selys-Longchamps—one of our Foreign Members since 1872,—though born at Paris in 1813, was a scion of an ancient and noble Maestricht family, which had of old furnished mayors, canons, and ambassadors to the Principality of Liège. His father held office under the French Republic, and was a member of the Belgian National Congress, while the son was successively communal councillor of Waremme (where he resided until fifteen years ago), provincial councillor, deputy, senator, vice-president of the Senate, and finally president of the same body.

A "governmental progressist" in politics, he was a most active legislator and a most eager reformer, while he was the last surviving member of the Liberal Congress of 1846.

Hardly more than three years ago was celebrated the jubilee of his election to the Royal Belgian Academy, when all the savants who were present vied with one another in their congratulations to the talented naturalist of half a century.

It would be impossible in our limited space to give a full

list of the numerous works of which the late Baron was the author; it must suffice to say that, commencing with a catalogue of local birds and insects in 1831, he continued to publish reviews, notices, and monographs, singly or in collaboration with others, on Vertebrates of every description, and on certain classes of insects. In particular, we may mention his (Vertebrate) Fauna of Belgium, and an important work on the *Libellulæ* of the whole world (thought by those of his fellows well qualified to judge the most important treatise ever issued on the group), together with articles on the cross-breeding of Ducks, on Birds of Passage, on stragglers from America, and on the Passerine Order generally. Certain of his papers were published in our 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' 'Transactions of the Entomological Society,' and 'Entomologist's Monthly Magazine.' Lepidoptera engaged his attention to a considerable extent, and his insect-collections are said to have been particularly fine.

The Baron died at Liège on the 11th of December of last year at the ripe age of 86.

The sudden death of Mr. PHILIP CROWLEY causes yet another gap in the ranks of the British Ornithologists' Union. Born at Alton, in Hampshire, in 1837, and privately educated, he afterwards became a partner in the well-known brewery at his native place. Later in life Mr. Crowley took up his residence at Waddon House, near Croydon, where he died on December 20th of last year. Not only was he Treasurer of the Royal Horticultural Society and Master of the Gardeners' Company—honours bestowed upon him in consequence of his devotion to pursuits specially connected with those bodies—but he was also a Fellow of the Linnean, Zoological, and Entomological Societies, besides being more closely connected with us by his membership of our Union and its offshoot the British Ornithologists' Club, of which he was a Vice-Chairman. Mr. Crowley published very few zoological papers, but devoted himself to the acquisition of scarce specimens of butterflies and birds' eggs with great

ability and success. Of the latter his collection was well known, after the addition to it of those of Canon Tristram and of his brother, to be one of the richest in certain groups in Europe. By his will Mr. Crowley left to the Trustees of the British Museum power to select all such specimens from his cabinets of birds'-eggs as were required to make their series more complete, and we are informed that the National Collection will greatly benefit by this generous bequest.

It is an interesting fact that Mr. Crowley's mother was the daughter of Dr. Curtis, of Alton, who attended Gilbert White during his last illness.

XXVII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed to 'The Editors':—

SIRS,—A large number of Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*) have visited this country during the last four months of this year. They probably arrived at the end of September, as the first specimens were obtained quite early in October.

They spread all over the country, so that examples were observed in all the eleven provinces of Holland. The birds, as would be expected, all belong to the slender-billed form; at least all those that I could examine or get examined exhibit the characteristic width of the white tips of the outer tail-feathers, as is usual in the Siberian form, the extent of the white in all cases exceeding 2 cm.

These birds seemed to feed largely in this country on the seeds of different species of pine-trees. One specimen, which I observed in this neighbourhood for several weeks, was constantly seen gathering them from the cones of *Pinus strobus* and *Picea excelsa*.

The bird suspends itself with its feet to the extremities of the branches which bear the cones, takes one off with its bill and flies away with it, generally to the ground in oak brush-wood, where it proceeds to eat the seeds. Those of the